

CONGRATULATIONS LONE STAR  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, congratulations to the Lone Star College System on its successful name change last year, and on surpassing the 50,000 student mark. Today, the Lone Star College System is the largest community college system in the Houston area and the second largest in the state of Texas. One in five high school graduates from area-wide school districts attend one of their branch campuses. Several of the system's campuses are in my district. The system also offers dual credit courses to over 5,000 high school students, giving students the opportunity to graduate high school with college credit.

Lone Star College System was established in 1972 when the voters of the Humble, Aldine, and Spring Independent School Districts voted to meet the need for a junior college to serve their communities. In the fall of 1973 the college was formed. Aldine High School hosted the first classes. In its first year the school enrolled 613 students led by 16 staff members.

Between 1981 and 2003, the college underwent a series of expansions and adopted the name of North Harris Montgomery Community College District. In November 2007, students and community members voted to rename the college Lone Star College System.

With graduates contributing in vital areas of our society upon graduation, this college has become a very valuable institution of education for my district and for Texas.

HONORING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORCESTER TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a southeastern Pennsylvania municipality celebrating its 275th anniversary.

Worcester Township, Montgomery County, was established in 1733 by 22 landowners on roughly 10,000 acres originally part of the land grant given to William Penn by King Charles II of England.

English, Dutch, German and Welsh immigrants, many seeking religious freedom, settled the Township, which was a mostly wooded wilderness at its inception. Eventually, the Township was transformed into a farming community that came to be known as a breadbasket for nearby Norristown and Philadelphia.

Worcester also played a role in the founding of our nation. General George Washington's troops camped at the Peter Wentz Farmstead before and after the Battle of Germantown. And the cemetery across from Bethel Hill Church serves as the final resting place for patriots who gave their lives in the pursuit of liberty.

While the population has grown to nearly 8,000 residents today, the Township remains

committed to preserving acres of scenic farmlands and open space.

Residents will mark the Township's 275th anniversary on Saturday, July 12, 2008 during a Community Day celebration in Heebner Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Worcester Township on its historic anniversary.

OP-ED SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF CARIBBEAN NATIONS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce an Opinion Editorial from the New York CaribNews that reflects support for the development of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) states. CaribNews is a New York based publication that serves as the voice of the Caribbean community.

The editorial which was published on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 is entitled; "The Diaspora And The Rolling Heads of State". The author of the Op-Ed, Dr. Basil Wilson, recognizes the achievements made by CARICOM nations to improve trade relations within the region and globally. "In 2008, CARICOM is to make further strides in the development of a single market economy".

Dr. Wilson also addresses the New York based Caribbean Diaspora as it relates to Caribbean economies. He explains; "Billions of dollars (from the U.S.) are sent to the respective islands to help out family members, to expand existing homes, to start businesses, and to provide some of the basic necessities of life".

This piece acknowledges the economic achievements made by Caribbean nations, therefore contributing to the region's legitimacy as a viable trading partner. At the same time, Dr. Wilson encourages entrepreneurial leadership in the Caribbean to further stimulate economic growth.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

THE DIASPORA AND THE ROLLING HEADS OF STATE

(By Dr. Basil Wilson)

It was befitting to hold the meeting bringing together the Caribbean community in New York and the Caribbean heads of state at York College, City University of New York, where the President of that institution, Marcia Keizs and the Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs have roots in the Caribbean and a majority of the 6,000 student body are either first or second generation Caribbean.

As one of the Caribbean heads of state remarked, he had to travel to New York to address an audience of Caribbean people as the movement of Caribbean people within the region remains limited with the exception of the students in higher education moving among the Mona, Cave Hill and St. Augustine campuses of the University of the West Indies. The Friday evening meeting on June 20, 2008 was designed to facilitate an intellectual exchange between leaders and non-leaders about the Diaspora and the future of, CARICOM.

The Diaspora community already plays a critical role in the form of remittances. Bil-

lions of dollars are sent to the respective islands to help out family members, to expand existing homes, to start businesses, and to provide some of the basic necessities of life. In many islands remittances have been instrumental in reducing the percentage of people living in poverty.

The format of the exchange enabled designated heads of state to address the audience and to allow the audience to ask questions or to make comments. This kind of mass questioning tends to attract to the open microphones speakers who are long-winded and with wide ranging concerns that invariably brings a certain incoherence to the discourse.

The world economy has changed dramatically since the initiation of CARICOM. In 2008, CARICOM is to make further strides in the development of a single market economy. Even within the units of CARICOM, there are no economies of scale. There are opportunities for investment and for the pooling of resources. The economist, Dr. Norman Girvan, has produced a paper outlining the future for further economic expansion. Trinidad and Tobago has emerged as the economic giant in the region and is standing even taller as the price of oil soars towards one hundred and fifty dollars per barrel. T and T is overflowing with investment capital at the same time nonexporting oil countries in the region are reeling from the rapid rise in oil and food prices that are now the norm in the world economy.

CARICOM at the beginning of the year signed a trade agreement with the European Union that opens those economies to Caribbean products and European products to the Caribbean region. CARICOM and CARIFORUM can no longer look inwards. It must look outwards either as a region or as independent islands. There is the dire urgency to put together an export oriented strategy to compete in the global economy of the 21st century.

The crime calamity in the Caribbean basin is indeed an outgrowth of the economic crisis and even though some sorely needed initiatives will be able to strengthen the shaky social order, long term stability will depend on the strengthening of the export sector in relationship to the world economy.

The Caribbean entered the world economy as an exporter of sugar with African slave labor. By the beginning of the 19th century, sugar production in the old English colonies had peaked and was unable to match the yield per acre of the new sugar-cane fields in Cuba. In the post-emancipation years and post-colonial interlude, the economies of the Caribbean remained moribund, starved of British investment capital and survived through the British protectionist system reserved for primary producers of the colonial empire. That arrangement created a condition of chronic surplus labor and forced segments of the Caribbean labor force to seek their fortunes elsewhere such as in the banana fields of Central America, the sugar-cane fields of Cuba, the construction complex of the Panama Canal, and the industrialized factories in the United States at the advent of World War I. In the post-second world war, thousands fled the region to work in the industrial and service enterprises of the United Kingdom.

In the post-colonial years in an age of global protectionism, most Caribbean countries opted for the developmental strategy of industrialization by invitation hiding behind the high walls of tariff barriers. That resulted in an economy with an export producing primary sector of sugar and banana and the new sector of light manufacturing serving the needs of the domestic market. The developmental strategy accelerated the movement from country to town where the